THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and to the extent available and admissible under the Rules will be laid on the Table of the House.

Import of edible oils on FOB basis

3618. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2452 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st December, 1988 and state:

(a) whether the terms of purchases of edible oils have been finalised by STC and if so, what are the details thereof and if not by when the said terms of purchases are likely to be finalised;

(b) the action taken/proposed to be taken on the representation made to the Prime Minister in this regard; and

(c) the total quantity and value of the edible oils that were imported on FOB basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) In pursuance of the decision that STC should resume, on a trial basis, imports of certain edible oils (RBD palm oil and neutralised palm oil) from Malaysia/Indonesia on FOB basis, the terms of such purchase were finalised by STC in consultation with Transchart and sent to foreign suppliers in South East Asia region. Though these terms were not fully accepted by the suppliers, STC had unilaterally decided in December, 1988 to purchase neutralised palm oil and RBD palm oil on FOB basis only. While taking these decisions, the point made on this subject in the representation made to the Prime Minister was kept in view.

After the decision to purchase on FOB basis only, there has been no import by STC of neutralised palm oil and RBD palm oil in view of the larger availability of substitute indigenous oils on prices lower than what has been fixed by Government for sale of imported oils.

Foreign hospitality for Indian citizens

3619. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the categories of persons required to seek prior permission of the Central Government for accepting any foreign hospitality while visiting a foreign country;

(b) whether an ordinary citizen of India is also required to obtain any permission; and

(c) if not, whether it is absolutely in order that an ordinary citizen can go anywhere in the world without any foreign exchange and can be looked after by his friends/relation at all times?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Members of a Legislature, Office bearers of a political party, Judges, Government Servants or employees of any Corporation are required to seek prior permission of the Central Government under section 9 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 before accepting any foreign hospitality while visiting a foreign country.

(b) No, Sir, unless any person or class of persons, not specified in section 9 of the said Act is required u/s 10(d) thereof to obtain prior permission of the Central Government before accepting any foreign hospitality.

(c) Unless a citizen of India is covered in the category of persons mentioned in reply to part (a) and (b) above, provisions of Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 will not be attracted. Similarly, no violation takes place under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 when an Indian citizen whether ordinary or otherwise, goes abroad without any foreign exchange and is looked after by his friends/relation at all times.